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3. The chief of mission concurs with this change.

4. POC is LTC Denise M. Donovan, Chief, Office Of Defense Cooperation, Phone: 380-44-42-5678/79/80/81, ext 2310, Fax: 380-44-462-5692 or 380-44-244-7350, e-mail DDONOVAN@USAID.GOV.

**CHANGES IN ECL TESTING AT DLIELC** [The following is a reprint from CMDT DLIELC LACKLAND AFB//LECT// message 062111Z May 99 subject as above].

1. The purpose of this message is to inform you that DLIELC will make a change in ECL testing format beginning 25 May 1999. For some time, DLIELC has been working on a computerized adaptive version of the ECL test, which we call the CAT ECL.

2. Briefly, here is the way an adaptive test works: a student sits down at the computer and is given 3-4 mid-level items. If he/she gets the items right, more and more difficult items are given. If he/she gets them wrong, easier and easier items. This proceeds until the computer algorithm has determined the student's ability level and then the test stops. We have a lot of confidence in the CAT ECL because our consultant in the conversion process is Dr. Grant Henning, a well known expert in computer adaptive testing now a professor at Penn State University. For several years he worked at Educational Testing Service (ETS).

3. We validated the CAT ECL on DLIELC students last year, and were pleased that the correlation between paper and pencil ECLs and the CAT ECL was .93. This high correlation indicates that student scores were not affected by the change to the CAT ECL. In addition, there was a significant reduction of time required for testing, from approximately 75 minutes (for the paper-and-pencil ECL) to an average time of less than 20 minutes per student (for the CAT ECL). This occurred even though students were allowed to take as long as they wanted for the CAT ECL.

4. Other advantages expected: Adaptive testing is expected to be more user-friendly in that test are shorter and less exhausting. Beginning level students will not have to take items that they cannot possibly answer, and high level students will not have to answer simple items far below their ability. The test is individualized, adapting to each student's proficiency level as it progresses, so student-to-student "collaboration" will be drastically reduced or eliminated. In addition, the digital sound has proved far superior to the old cassette tapes, producing an improved "listening part" of the test.

5. As you probably know, DLIELC has been converting from audio cassette labs to multimedia computer labs. Use of the CAT ECL is in accord with increased application of modern technology. However, this does not mean that students will have to have computer skills in order to take the test. The procedures are quite simple and do not even require the student to know how to use the mouse; a student simply hits the letters a, b, c, or d, and then "enter."

6. DLIELC is not preparing to implement school-wide use of the CAT ECL in the resident program at Lackland AFB. All ECL testing except for the entry tests will be conducted on computers. For the present, we will continue to use the existing 120-item paper-and-pencil test for entry testing. Use of the CAT ECL for entry testing will likely be implemented at a later date. We are making a video tape which may be distributed for the purpose of orienting entering students.

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7. If you have any questions, POC is Ms Pansy Johnson, DSN 473-4889 or comm'l (210) 671-4889, e-mail [PANSY.JOHNSON@LACKLAND.AF.MIL](mailto:PANSY.JOHNSON@LACKLAND.AF.MIL).

**IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEW FMS ADMINISTRATIVE RATE** [The following is a reprint of SECDEF Washington DC/USDP:DSCA message 280900Z Jun 99 subject as above.]

1. On 25 June 1999, DEPSECDEF approved reducing the standard administrative rate from 3% to 2.5%. This message provides implementation instructions to the security cooperation community. Additional implementation instructions were provided to the military departments under separate cover. Please provide the widest dissemination of this message. Recommend the information be passed to your foreign counterparts.

2. The rate change applies to all new cases and to new lines established on existing cases implemented on or after 1 June 1999. This date was selected to preclude a delay in submission of Letters of Request (LOA). No exceptions to this date will be considered.

3. Please note this administrative rate decrease does not impact the 5% administrative surcharge applies to nonstandard lines. Also, program management lines are still exempt from administrative surcharges.

4. The following procedures apply:

a. LOAs implemented prior to 1 June 99. All case lines implemented prior to 1 June 99 will retain the administrative surcharge in effect at the time the document was implemented (usually 3%). Existing (implemented) case lines will not be adjusted to reflect the reduced rate. If line adjustments are made on future modifications/amendments (i.e., to reflect pricing or quantity changes), the line will be priced using its original administrative rate.

b. LOAs offered to the customer. All LOAs which have been offered to the customer (countersigned (if required) but not yet accepted)) are eligible for the new rate. It is recommended that these LOAs be accepted by the customer as written. Within 30 days of implementation, modifications to these LOAs shall be processed by the military departments adjusting the standard administrative rate to 2.5% on all applicable lines. If the customer prefers that the rate be changed prior to acceptance, the LOA may be restated with the new rate and reoffered to the customer or a pen and ink change may be processed to document the changes. All case documents, restatement, and pen and ink changes adjusting the administrative rate must be countersigned (coordinated in the case of pen and ink changes) by DSCA.

c. LOAs in accepted status. All LOAs which have been accepted (signed by the customer but not yet implemented in the Defense Integrated Financial System (DIFS)) are eligible for the new rate. Upon receipt of initial deposit requirements, DFAS-DE will implement these cases as written. A modification shall be processed by the military department adjusting the standard administrative rate to 2.5% on all applicable lines. The modification should be completed within 30 days of implementation and must be countersigned by DSCA.

d. LOAs implemented on or after 1 June 99. Military departments will process modifications for LOAs which were implemented on or after 1 June 99 with the 3% surcharge